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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/694,140	10/27/2003	Masataka Okushita	CU-3414 BWH	3256
26530	7590	02/23/2006	EXAMINER	
LADAS & PARRY LLP 224 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE SUITE 1600 CHICAGO, IL 60604			TRUONG, THANH K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3721	

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/694,140

Applicant(s)

OKUSHITA ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh K. Truong

Art Unit

3721

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-28 and 37-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 37-48 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 18-21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22 and 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 23-26 and 28 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/269,594.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group 1, claims 18-28, in the reply filed on January 13, 2006 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 37-48 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on January 13, 2006.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 28 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim --should refer to other claims in the alternative only--, and/or, --cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim--. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claim 28 has not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Busse (4,09,045).

Busse discloses an apparatus comprising:

a conveyor (TT) capable of circulating along a predetermined circulation path (figure 1);

a plurality of mandrels (M) arranged on the conveyor so as to leave a certain interval therebetween in a circulation direction of the conveyor (figure 1);

a driving device (the examiner construes that the transfer turret TT comprises a driving device – not shown) for moving the conveyor intermittently by a pitch corresponding to the interval between the mandrels to feed each of the mandrel step by step with respect to stations defined along the circulation path;

a blank-supplying device for supplying the blank (SB) to a curling station selected from the stations with applying an adhesive agent to one end portion of the blank (column 4, lines 8-10);

a curling device for curling up the supplied blank on each of the mandrels in such a manner that the one end portion of the blank is located under another end portion thereof to form a joint line (column 4, lines 18-20);

a sealing device for pressing both end portions of the blank, which forms the joint line, to each other (column 4, lines 20-22); and

a sleeve-ejecting device provided in an ejecting station (S7) which is selected from the stations and is located forward from the curling station in the circulation direction for removing the sleeve from each of the mandrels (figure 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 3721

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Busse (4,09,045) in view of Amberg (3,797,369).

As discussed above in paragraph 5 of this office action, Busse discloses the claimed invention, but does not expressly disclose that the sleeve-ejecting device removes the sleeve from each of the mandrel by pressing a roller onto the sleeve fitted on each mandrel with rotating the roller about an axis perpendicular to an axis of each mandrel.

Amberg discloses an apparatus comprising the sleeve-ejecting device removes the sleeve (S) from each of the mandrel (38) by pressing a roller (70) onto the sleeve fitted on each mandrel with rotating the roller about an axis perpendicular to an axis of each mandrel (figures 2 & 6). Amberg sleeve removing apparatus provides an affective means to eject the sleeve form the mandrel.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time applicant's invention was made, to have modified Busse apparatus by incorporating the sleeve ejecting device as taught by Amberg providing an affective means to eject the sleeve form the mandrel.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 18-21 are allowed.

9. Claims 23-26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

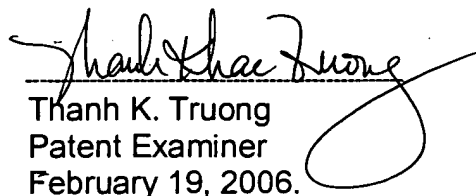
Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh K. Truong whose telephone number is 571-272-4472. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thru 8:00AM - 6:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi Rada can be reached on 571-272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Thanh K. Truong
Patent Examiner
February 19, 2006.